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13 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Suggestion Awards Committee

SUBJECT   : Suggestion No. 64-10

1. There is absolutely no question of the present, and future, importance of the computer to the Soviet (and other) society (ies). There are, of course, requirements for information on Soviet computers and their applications, but to re-emphasize the point, a recent high-level study on one of the highest priority subjects--the Soviet ABM problems--notes that the computer is the nerve center for any ABM system and states the need for details about computer equipment and programs involved therein.

2. Also, Soviet attention to the potential of cybernetic applications in all aspects of Soviet society is well known. The degree of their interest in "information services" alone can be seen in the designation of improvements in information services as goal no. 3 in a list of the five main goals of the State Committee of Ministers of the USSR for Science and Technology.

3. It is highly possible that the approach suggested in paragraph 4 of 64-10 could have some payoff. In the past, the Soviets have expressed considerable interest in information exchange through both the International Federation of Information Processing Societies (IFIPS) and the Federation Internationale De Documentation (FID). With the complexities of third-generation hardware and the overwhelming interest in time-sharing, multi-tasking, remote-query, on-line systems, user groups in this country (such as IBM's SHARE and GUIDE groups) are major media for exchanging experiences and improving one's own programs. Other countries are just as vitally interested as we. Why not capitalize on that interest--such collections can result in mighty inexpensive intelligence data.

/s/

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